

Application Serial No. 09/923,375
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2005

PATENT
Docket: CU-2613

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated May 4, 2005, the Examiner states that Claims 1-6 are pending and Claims 1-6 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicants amend the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 2 and 4 are objected to. Those claims have been amended to overcome the objections.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,714,314 (Ueda). The Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse this rejection.

Ueda discloses an image printing apparatus which has an image data inputting means, a command inputting device, a printing means, and a display device.

The rejection indicates that the image printing apparatus of Ueda has a processing device for producing a protection processed image for applying a privacy protection process to the image to be output, wherein a controlling means for displaying either one of the protection processed image and the image to be output on the display device according to the designation by a user. Regarding this point, the rejection indicates that when the user selects a smaller sized image to be printed out, the selection inherently provides privacy protection, and when the user selects a larger size for printing image, the selection would be an image without protection. The rejection also indicates the present specification suggests printing a smaller image as an option for privacy protection.

However, the Applicants contend that to select the size of the printing image is not related to the privacy protection process. That is merely an operation for selecting the print size that the user wants to output (print out). In accordance with the rejection, when the user wants to get a larger size print, the privacy protection can be never obtained regardless of whether the user wants to apply the privacy protection or not. Alternatively, if the user wants to apply the privacy protection, the user can never obtain a larger size print. In Ueda, there is no teaching or suggestion for privacy protection to the displayed image during a succession of operations for printing out.

The present application discloses that the image minimizing is an option for privacy protection. However, the application does not suggest that "to print a smaller

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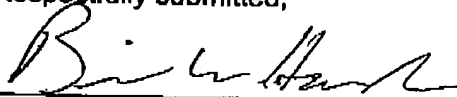
an option for privacy protection, although "to display a smaller image" is an option for privacy protection.

The confirmation page disclosed by Ueda displays the image only with a size corresponding to the size to be printed out which is selected by the user. In Ueda, the displayed image is only the image to be output. Any images other than the printing size image are not selectable. Thus, there is no controlling means for displaying either a protection processed image or the image to be output based on the designation by the user. Even if the image to be output (printed out) has a smaller size, the image should be considered only as "the image to be output", and not as any other image such as the "privacy protection processed image".

Since Ueda does not disclose or teach the privacy protection process and the controlling means, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by Ueda is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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